

LAUNCHING THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE

It is important to consider how you will effectively launch this professional development experience for your community, particularly if it will be a mostly self-guided experience (i.e. if you don't meet to engage with each module).

We encourage you to consider having a launch meeting to organize your work together over the coming weeks and help your participants understand both the goals and structure of this professional development experience. A launch meeting is also a good way to set the tone for the professional development experience. Discussing how to do something 'Christianly' can be intimidating for many people and it is easy for them to feel as if they are being judged or their faith is being placed in question. We recommend taking the time to intentionally frame the experience and set a tone that encourages open exploration of questions and ideas. Let teachers know that the aim is not for the few experts to instruct the many, but for everyone to work together to deepen understanding and extend the fruitfulness of their practice. Frame the professional development experience as a learning journey that everyone can take together, meant to cultivate space where participants can continue to explore connections between their faith and their practice.

IDEAS FOR A LAUNCH MEETING

- Explain the purpose and structure of the project and why you are excited about this opportunity for your school community.
- Discuss desired tone for project and how you will cultivate a safe environment for asking questions and having discussion about the topic.
- Review the schedule for the upcoming weeks and discuss how participants can stay on track with engagement.
- Hand out materials and discuss how to access digital resources.
- Consider providing a small gift to support the launch of the experience, like a journal or notebook participants can use during the course or a copy of Life Together if you plan to include those readings as part of your professional development experience.